

Rhode Island State Planning Council
Draft Minutes of Thursday, July 24, 2014 Meeting
William E. Powers Building
Conference Room A
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

I. ATTENDANCE

1. Members Present

Mr. Richard Licht, Chair	Director, RI Department of Administration
Mr. Steven Hartford, Vice Chair	Policy Director, Governor's Office
Mr. Kevin Flynn, Secretary	Associate Director, Division of Planning
Ms. Jeanne Boyle	President's Designee, RILOCAT
Ms. Anna Cano Morales	Public Member
Ms. Jeanne Cola	Chair, RI Housing Resources Commission
Mr. Roy Coulombe	Public Member
Mr. Ruben Flores-Marzan	Planning Director, Providence Department of Planning & Development
Mr. Grover Fugate	Executive Director, RI Coastal Resources Management Council
Ms. Sarah Harrigan	Representing Dr. Michael Fine, Director, RI Department of Health
Mr. Scott Millar	Representing Ms. Janet Coit, Director, RIDEM
Mr. L. Vincent Murray	RI LOCAT, Government Official Representative
Ms. Anna Prager	Public Member
Ms. Amy Rainone	Representing Richard Godfrey, Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing
Mr. Peder Schaefer	Representing Mr. Dan Beardsley, Executive Director, RILOCAT
Mr. Sam Shamoon	Governor's Designee
Mr. Bob Shawver	Representing Mr. Michael Lewis, Director, RIDOT
Ms. Rachel Sholly	Representing Ms. Marion Gold, Executive Director, RI Office of Energy Resources
Mr. Mark Therrien	Representing Mr. Raymond Studley, RIPTA
Mr. John Trevor	Environmental Advocate
Mr. Michael Walker	Representing Mr. Marcel Valois, Executive Director, RI Commerce Corporation

2. Members Absent

Ms. Sharon Conard-Wells	West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation
Mr. Thomas Mullaney	RI Department of Administration, Budget Office
Ms. Janet White-Raymond	Public Member
Mr. Scott Wolf	Environmental Advocate

3. Guests

Ms. Meredith Brady	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Brendan Fogarty	RI Department of Transportation
Mr. Nate Kelly	Horsley Witten
Mr. John Preiss	RI Department of Transportation

4. Staff – Division of Planning

Ms. Melanie Army	Supervising Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Kenneth Burke	General Manager, Water Resources
Ms. Siobhan O’Kane	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Mr. Jared Rhodes	Chief, Statewide Planning
Mr. Chris Witt	Principal Planner, Statewide Planning Program
Ms. Dawn Vittorioso	Executive Assistant, Division of Planning

II. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Chairman Licht called the meeting to order on July 24, 2014 at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approval of the June 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *for vote*

Mr. Licht asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 12, 2014. Mr. Prager moved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2014 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were none.

4. RI DOT Off System Bridge Funding – *for vote*

Mr. Licht introduced Ms. Brady who delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation (attachment 1). Having concluded the formal presentation, the Council engaged in the following discussion:

Mr. Licht asked if the \$10 million set-aside is part of the \$220 million annual allocation. Ms. Brady said yes.

Mr. Licht pointed out then Senator Chafee’s role in declaring portions of the interlink as an off-system bridge thereby furthering the ability to construct the facility. In addition, he took the time to overview the progress that the Governor’s office has been able to make in improving RI’s overall transportation funding mechanisms.

Ms. Prager moved to support the request to transfer the \$41 million to other Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) projects already included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

Under discussion, Mr. Schaefer asked whether RIDOT is coordinating with local public works directors on the construction aspects of the associated projects. Ms. Brady replied that RIDOT is working closely with the pertinent local officials. Mr. Schaefer then asked if the state has a match for the local bridges. Mr. Shawver said yes, as long as the bridges are twenty-feet long and are classified to be federally eligible.

Mr. Licht asked if RIDOT is supervising design and construction of the projects. Mr. Preiss indicated that in most instances RIDOT does.

Mr. Schaefer questioned if there were controversies on any of the off-system bridges right now. Mr. Shawver said that he was not aware of any.

Mr. Hartford inquired if the Bourne Bridge in Westerly is an example of an off-system bridge. Mr. Preiss said no he believes that the Bourne Bridge is an “on-system bridge”. Next, Mr. Hartford asked if this request will alter the state’s ability to meet off-system bridge needs. Ms. Brady said no.

There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Licht thanked Ms. Brady for her presentation and moved to the next agenda item.

5. RhodeMap RI Draft Economic Development Plan – for discussion

Mr. Licht introduced Mr. Flynn and Mr. Nate Kelly who delivered an informational PowerPoint presentation (attachment 2). Having concluded the formal presentation, staff polled the Council to determine the level of interest in discussing the proposed goals, policies and strategies. This led to the discussion beginning with Goal 8:

Goal 8: Create a climate where our companies, our workers, and the state as a whole can develop a competitive advantage.

- Complement the statewide inspection services department with a state- or region-wide, uniform, electronic building permitting system for cities and towns.
- Promote the establishment of a statewide building and fire inspection service that can be enlisted at the request of developers.
- Provide training to local and state governments on permitting “best practices” that lead to a faster permitting process and higher quality development.

Mr. Schaefer expressed his concern that commercial property tax rates are not listed within the Plan. Mr. Licht agreed with the importance of the issue raised by Mr. Schaefer and used interstate I95 properties as an example. Mr. Kelly noted that this is exactly the sort of feedback that he is looking for and stated that he and his team will work to incorporate this information into the document.

Mr. Licht noted the difficulty in addressing regulatory reform, given that the vast majority of regulation is based on statutes passed by the legislature. In addition, he noted that the state could benefit by establishing more common ground among the state’s thirty nine cities and towns zoning ordinances. Mr. Hartford echoed Director Licht’s concern and suggested looking at other highly competitive states for best practice examples.

Mr. Licht queried why RI doesn’t have a unified building permit application. Mr. Shamoon pointed out that RI has a statewide building code and application process. He then suggested that the state should acquire the building permitting process from municipalities and have a centralized location for the state. Ms. Boyle spoke on behalf of East Providence’s building code department and cautioned members not to generalize across municipalities and noted that different communities have different levels of experience. Mr. Murray echoed Ms. Boyle’s comments and noted that currently building inspectors do have to be trained and certified but that the programs, overall, could be improved to highlight the importance of their work to the state’s well-being.

Mr. Licht suggested that the Plan call for a statewide customer service academy that all state and municipal employees should attend. He noted that from his experience, regulatory reform is overblown and that the need is for better customer service. He then referenced the recent efforts at DEM as an example.

Mr. Hartford emphasized that creating a uniform application with strict processing deadlines while maintaining local control should be the goal.

Mr. Fugate pointed out the difficulty of rewarding those that are doing well from a customer service perspective when you are locked into a tenure-based system and do not have the ability or resources to inspire better service.

Next, the Council discussed Goal 7: Provide new infrastructure and improvements that are resource efficient and resilient to climate change.

- Develop a comprehensive assessment of the existing structure of Rhode Island's water utilities with the goal of partial consolidation.
- Continue to advance Clean Tech economy through procurement efforts, renewable energy fund investment and regional collaboration.
- Actively pursue federal grant opportunities for the design and installation of green infrastructure.
- Perform employment center vulnerability mapping to better understand the potential benefits of protecting these areas with infrastructure investment.

Mr. Fugate pointed out that the state is developing a series of inundation and surge mapping scenarios that could be helpful and noted the need for better riverine data.

Ms. Boyle asked Mr. Kelly to elaborate on the Clean Tech economy, which he subsequently did.

Mr. Murray noted that the incorporation of green industry is a trend that is worthy of incorporation here given the climate change realities we are facing.

Mr. Fugate indicated that RI Coastal Resources Management Council (RICRMC) and the University of RI (URI) received a grant in the amount of \$400 thousand from the Department of Interior (DOI) to investigate with RI Nursery Landscape Association (RINLA) the further incorporation of green infrastructure.

Ms. Sholly commented that development of renewable energy is great; however, energy efficiency will continue to be the least expensive cost supply, which is fundamental to expanding this kind of resiliency and climate change.

There being no further questions or comments, Mr. Kelly introduced Goal 6: Develop and maintain world class infrastructure to support the state's economy.

- Create a sustainable, permanent funding mechanism for the repair of Rhode Island's roads and bridges.
- Develop revolving fund at the state level specifically designated for developing small-scale wastewater treatment facilities or small community water supply wells in suburban and rural growth centers.
- Improve broadband performance and access on Aquidneck Island potentially through the localized, island wide technology network.
- Aggregate all local GIS based infrastructure data into a separate geodatabase maintained by RIGIS.

Mr. Trevor expressed support for aggregating local Geographic Information System (GIS) data into a RI's Geographic Information System (RIGIS) Statewide database.

Mr. Hartford questioned the second bullet "Develop revolving fund at the state level specifically designated for developing small-scale wastewater treatment facilities or small community water supply wells in suburban and rural growth centers" and said he thought that RI was already doing this through Clean Water Finance. In response, Mr. Kelly said the wastewater treatment systems that currently exist accommodate larger systems and

said that this bullet pertains to small package wastewater treatment systems that are less than ten thousand gallons per day.

Mr. Murray expressed the importance of the availability of drinking water to many rural communities as an economic deterrent and said that there will be a need to address the provision of water long-term.

Mr. Shamoan asked if there is an assumption that the state should take over the funding of RI's transportation network entirely. In response, Mr. Kelly said not necessarily but there is recognition that R's transportation network needs to be addressed.

Mr. Shawver expressed the need to not only focus on funding but to also focus on the additional capacity that the state will need in the future to move people from place to place.

Next, Mr. Kelly moved on to Goal 5: Create great places by coordinating economic, housing and transportation investments.

- Restore the Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit with adequate funding to spur targeted development, including residential development.
- Revitalize the state's Enterprise Zone Program to re-establish it as an effective redevelopment tool.
- Exempt Growth Centers from the state's tax levy cap to remove disincentives for public and private investment.
- Encourage mixed-use development zoning which incorporates village-like amenities and services for a mixed-age (intergenerational) residential population, and includes by-right multi-family housing models for rural and suburban centers.

Ms. Rainone pointed out the need to be more strategic in awarding incentives to individual projects to ensure that funds go to projects that are truly state priorities. Mr. Licht agreed but noted the need to have a process that does not allow politics to influence decisions.

Mr. Hartford asked if there is room for more flexibility in meeting affordable housing goals and then asked if it is a state or federal issue? Mr. Flynn indicated that the 10% goal is established by the General Assembly and therefore it is a state issue. He said that the bigger issue is that the state and towns do not have the resources to meet the need. Mr. Hartford questioned if there is a need for greater flexibility in how the 10% standard is achieved. Ms. Rainone said that meeting affordable housing goals without money is feasible. She noted that standards can be made for Growth Centers to include multi-family/mixed use development at a certain level of density that is financially feasible and appropriate for the setting, which will inspire development activity to take place.

Mr. Walker said that projects need to run as efficiently as possible so that RI can be competitive with neighboring states. He noted that zoning by right needs to be a predictable process so that the regulations are made clear as to whether or not a project can or cannot be done. In closing, Mr. Walker pointed out that the Plan is not just about housing, it is also about commerce and jobs.

Mr. Murray said that Goal 5 is a well-stated goal but expressed the importance of housing affordability as an economic center in and of itself.

In conclusion, Mr. Flynn provided some summary comments on next steps for the project.

6. Associate Director's Report – *for discussion*

Mr. Flynn addressed the following items under the Associate Director's report:

- Climate Change Bill into Law (attachment 3);

Mr. Flynn took a moment to wish Mr. Licht well, as this is his last meeting as Chair of the State Planning Council, and congratulated him on his recent appointment. He then thanked him for the superior support that he provided throughout his tenure as the Director of Administration. Mr. Licht thanked the Council and expressed his enthusiasm for being a part of the Council during his tenure as the Chair and the Director of Administration.

7. Other Business – *for discussion*

There was none.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Licht asked for a motion to adjourn. Council member Walker motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council member Murray and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Flynn
Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1



OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE WAIVER Request for Concurrence

State Planning Council
July 24, 2014

Rhode Island is facing a challenge to fund bridge repair and other transportation infrastructure investment needs.

- There are 1,154 bridges in Rhode Island.
- Currently, the State has 20% of its bridges rated as structurally deficient, while an additional 59% require repairs or rehabilitation.
- To meet goals for improving the condition of Rhode Island's bridges within ten years, the Better Bridge Program was developed using asset management principles.
- The program would reduce deck area of structurally deficient bridges to less than 10% of all bridge deck area.

Better Bridge Program Resources Needed

Year	Poor Bridges (Remediation)	Fair Bridges (Preservation)	Total Funding Needed	Currently Available Funding	Additional Funding Needed	Funding to Maintain Good Bridges
2015	\$40,416,525	\$145,176,990	\$185,593,516	\$50,000,000	\$135,593,516	\$4,675,577
2016	\$40,219,771	\$49,140,704	\$89,360,474	\$50,000,000	\$39,360,474	\$5,397,786
2017	\$40,729,702	\$69,269,864	\$109,999,566	\$50,000,000	\$59,999,566	\$4,201,214
2018	\$39,911,338	\$49,734,826	\$89,646,164	\$50,000,000	\$39,646,164	\$15,500,000
2019	\$71,303,143	\$18,307,625	\$89,610,769	\$50,000,000	\$39,610,769	\$15,500,000
2020	\$50,878,778	\$19,104,996	\$69,983,774	\$50,000,000	\$19,983,774	\$15,500,000
2021	\$50,492,637	\$19,206,392	\$69,699,029	\$50,000,000	\$19,699,029	\$15,500,000
2022	\$50,779,568	\$18,927,079	\$69,706,647	\$50,000,000	\$19,706,647	\$15,500,000
2023	\$18,905,839	\$50,969,702	\$69,875,541	\$50,000,000	\$19,875,541	\$15,500,000
2024	\$0	\$61,182,798	\$61,182,798	\$50,000,000	\$11,182,798	\$15,500,000
Total	\$403,637,302	\$501,020,977	\$904,658,278	\$500,000,000	\$404,658,278	\$122,774,577
					Annualized Funding \$40,465,828	

What is an off-system bridge?

- A National Bridge Inventory (NBI) bridge which is not part of the Federal Highway System.

What is the off-system bridge set aside?

- As part of MAP-21 (and its predecessor, SAFETEA-LU) each state is required to spend the equivalent of 15% of highway bridge funding on off-system bridges in each fiscal year.
- In Rhode Island, that equates to approximately \$10 million annually.

How much is currently designated as off-system bridge set-aside?

- Currently the State of Rhode Island has over \$51 million set aside for off-system bridges.



Example: Central Pike Bridge No. 859: Structurally Deficient and Posted for Load. Superstructure (steel beams) contributing cause.

Federal Funding Set Aside for Off-System Bridges

Funding Source	Program Code	Unobligated Balance
Bridge Program 15% Off-System	L11E, L11R	\$ 30,702,898
STP Off-System Bridge	M233	\$ 20,571,728
TOTAL		\$ 51,274,626

How many off-system bridges are in Rhode Island?

- There are 48 off-system bridges in Rhode Island.

What is the condition of these bridges?

- 12 are in good condition;
- 3 are currently under construction; and
- 33 require various levels of work, ranging from minor repairs and rehabilitation to replacement.

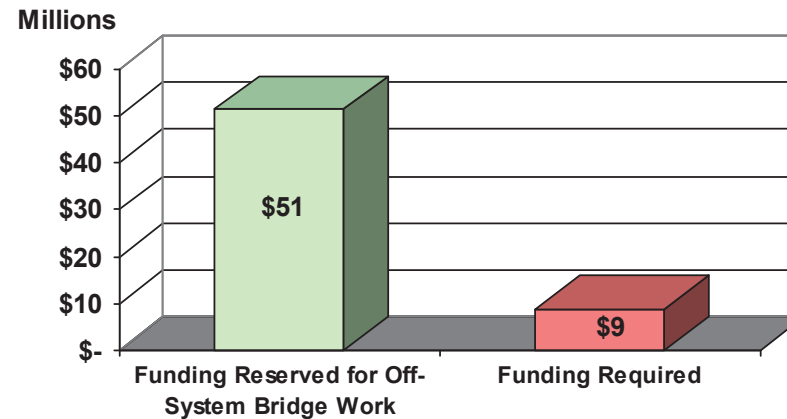
How much will it cost to bring ALL of the off-system bridges into a state of good repair?

- It is estimated that the total cost of the remaining work will be approximately \$9 million.

	State Owned	Town Owned	Total
Number	26	22	48
Structurally Deficient	5	5	10
Fair Condition	14	12	26
Good Condition	7	5	12

How does the amount set aside compare with the amount of funding needed?

- The amount needed is \$9 million, compared to the amount set aside (\$51 million).



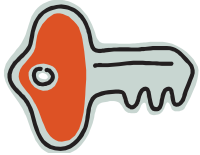
What can we do about the disparity between the set-aside and need?

- MAP-21 has a provision to allow a waiver of the amount reserved for off-system bridges when the state has “inadequate need” for the funding.
- RIDOT is seeking concurrence from the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Technical Committee, and the State Planning Council before forwarding an official request to FHWA in Washington, DC to reduce the set-aside.

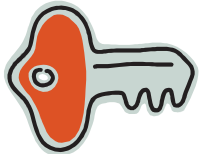
Waiver Request for \$41.3m of the Off-System Bridget Set-Aside

Funding Source	Program Code	Unobligated Balance	Requested Reduction	Proposed Off-System Bridge Set-Aside Remaining
Bridge Program 15% Off-System	L11E, L11R	\$ 30,702,898	\$ (30,702,898)	\$ -
STP Off-System Bridge	M233	\$ 20,571,728	\$ (10,571,728)	\$ 10,000,000
TOTAL		\$ 51,274,626	\$ (41,274,626)	\$ 10,000,000

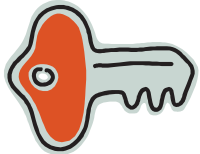
Key Points



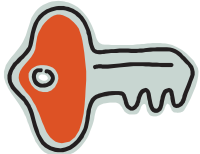
All 48 off-system bridges in Rhode Island can be brought into a state of good repair for approximately \$9 million in investment.



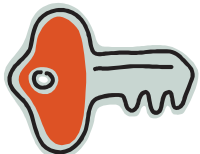
The waiver from FHWA would allow RIDOT to reallocate the remaining \$41.3 million into a more flexible funding category.



The \$41.3 million is needed to fund the TIP as developed. This is **NOT** additional funding for new projects.



This process will also prevent the state from losing off-system bridge funding due to any lapse of funds.



RIDOT is requesting concurrence from the Transportation Advisory Committee, the Technical Committee, and the State Planning Council to support the waiver request.



Questions?

OFF-SYSTEM BRIDGE WAIVER Request for Concurrence

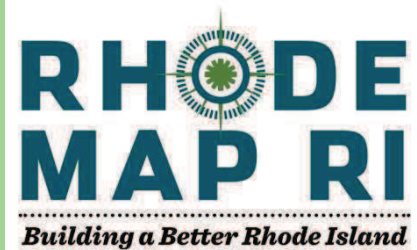
Technical Committee
July 17, 2014

Contact Information:

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john.preiss@dot.ri.gov

Meredith Brady -- (401) 222-6940 x4530
meredith.brady@dot.ri.gov

ATTACHMENT 2



Update to the State Planning Council

July 24, 2014



RhodeMap RI: Building a Better Rhode Island

Our Discussion Today

- Questions to you...
 - Likes and dislikes?
 - What may be missing?
 - Highest priorities?



Plan Structure

- Introduction
- Part One: A Snapshot of Our Population and Economy
- Part Two: Where do we want to be in 20 years?
- Part Three: Opportunities and Challenges
- Part Four: Goals Policies and Strategies
- Part Five: Staying On Track



How to Report Back

- Today's Discussion
- E-mail

Jeff.Davis@doa.ri.gov



Goal 1: Provide educational and training opportunities that help people build careers.

- Access the full potential of CCRI to help prepare our workforce.
- Strengthen the state's apprenticeship programs to their full potential.
- Advocate for providing universal access to pre-K across the state.
- Reform the state's Job Development Fund by exempting the fund from the state's indirect cost recovery.



Goal 2: Create a business climate where innovators and entrepreneurs can thrive.

- Create a network of “one-stop-shop” business community centers where trained personnel can educate business owners about licensing, permitting, taxes etc.
- Develop a local zoning framework that allows for individual sites to integrate many different uses into a single building over time (e.g., light manufacturing, wet lab, demonstration facilities, R&D, office, education, etc.)
- Adopt new legislation to facilitate the use of different small business models like co-ops both for preserving existing and creating new business.



Goal 3: Create an inclusive economy that targets opportunity to typically underserved populations.

- Create a state level urban redevelopment office designed to reduce bureaucracy and increase capacity in urban communities.
- Diversify the state workforce at all levels so that the racial and ethnic composition of staff is reflective of the state as a whole.
- Require large construction contractors bidding on state projects to identify their efforts to both sub-contract work to minority owned construction firms in Rhode Island, as well as its proposed efforts to directly hire apprentices of color from a state approved construction apprenticeship program.



Goal 4: Support industries and investments that play to Rhode Island's strengths.

- Center for Design and Manufacturing; Marine and Cybersecurity Center; Defense Industry Taskforce; Ship RI.
- Provide the State Office of Tourism the funding and staff resources needed to develop a cohesive and comprehensive approach to tourism.
- Conduct a statewide, comprehensive needs assessment and feasibility study related to agricultural processing and distribution infrastructure.
- Provide technical assistance for the identification and implementation of Growth Centers.



Goal 5: Create great places by coordinating economic, housing and transportation investments.

- Restore the Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit with adequate funding to spur targeted development, including residential development.
- Revitalize the state's Enterprise Zone Program to re-establish it as an effective redevelopment tool.
- Exempt Growth Centers from the state's tax levy cap to remove disincentives for public and private investment.
- Encourage mixed-use development zoning which incorporates village-like amenities and services for a mixed-age (intergenerational) residential population, and includes by-right multi-family housing models for rural and suburban centers.



Goal 6: Develop and maintain world class infrastructure to support the state's economy.

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Goal 7: Provide new infrastructure and improvements that are resource efficient and resilient to climate change.

- Develop a comprehensive assessment of the existing structure of Rhode Island's water utilities with the goal of partial consolidation.
- Continue to advance CleanTech economy through procurement efforts, renewable energy fund investment and regional collaboration.
- Actively pursue federal grant opportunities for the design and installation of green infrastructure.
- Perform employment center vulnerability mapping to better understand the potential benefits of protecting these areas with infrastructure investment.



Goal 8: Create a climate where our companies, our workers, and the state as a whole can develop a competitive advantage.

- Complement the statewide inspection services department with a state- or region-wide, uniform, electronic building permitting system for cities and towns.
- Promote the establishment of a statewide building and fire inspection service that can be enlisted at the request of developers.
- Provide training to local and state governments on permitting “best practices” that lead to a faster permitting process and higher quality development.



ATTACHMENT 3



Governor Chafee signs the Climate Change Bill into Law

Governor Lincoln D. Chafee invites you to join him
as he signs the Climate Change Bill into law

Friday, August 1 at 3 p.m.

Town Beach, Beach Street, Wickford Village, North Kingstown

Special Guests: Elizabeth S. Dolan, Town Council President, North Kingstown
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Senators Susan Sosnowski and William J. Conley,
Representative Arthur Handy, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council

House Bill No. 7904 A and Senate Bill No. 2952 A seek to protect Rhode Island's environment, economy, and citizens by taking steps to address climate change. The new law codifies Governor Chafee's earlier executive order and establishes the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council. The Council is charged with coordinating state efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for impacts that cannot be avoided, including impacts from sea level rise and severe weather on our environment, infrastructure, economy and communities. The law emphasizes collaboration with cities and towns, the private sector and academic institutions to address both the challenges and opportunities of building greater resilience.

For More Information, call Ryan Crowley in the Office of Governor Chafee
at 401-222-8060 or email, ryan.crowley@governor.ri.gov